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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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MAY 06 2003
PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE
Inventor: Christopher J. Chase, et al.
Serial No: 09/911,119
Filing Date: July 23, 2001
Title: APPARATUS AND METHODS
FOR DETERMINING
BIOMOLECULAR
INTERACTIONS

Group Art Unit: 2876

Examiner: Ahshik Kim

RESPONSE

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

RESPONSE TO THE EXAMINER'S OFFICE ACTION

In reply to the Office Action dated January 21, 2003, designated as Paper No. 8 in the above-captioned application, please enter the following amendments and Remarks as follows:

In the Claims

Please cancel claims 4, 6, and 7.

Please rewrite claims 1, 5, and 8, according to the following:

1. A molecular detection apparatus comprising:
a first compartment containing at least a ligand or a receptor;
a second compartment adjacent said first compartment;
a boundary area disposed between said first and second compartments;
a sensing area; and
means for detecting the diffusion of a molecule proximate the sensing area.
5. The molecular detection apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first compartment contains a matrix material.
8. The molecular detection apparatus of claim 1, wherein the ligand molecule is smaller than the receptor molecule and wherein the boundary area includes a membrane operative to allow ligand molecules to pass therethrough and to prevent passage of receptor molecules.

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